

**CLAIMS:**

1. An article, comprising a deformation-control member which has a medial section, and a stiffened region;  
5 wherein  
said stiffened region includes a first array of individual, stiffening elements, and at least a second array of individual, stiffening elements;  
said first array of stiffening elements has a first, convergently arranged nose-end, and a first, relatively divergently arranged tail-end;  
10 said first array of stiffening elements is configured to substantially avoid intersecting in said medial section of said deformation-control member.  
said second array of stiffening elements has a second, convergently arranged nose-end, and a second, relatively divergently arranged tail-end;  
said second array of stiffening elements is configured to substantially avoid intersecting in  
15 said medial section of said deformation-control member; and  
said second array of stiffening elements have a counter-positioned configuration relative to the first array of stiffening elements.
2. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
20 said first nose-end of the first array is positioned toward a central region of the article, and said first tail-end is positioned toward a first end region of the article;  
said second nose-end of the second array is positioned toward the central region of the article, and said second tail-end is positioned toward a second end region of the article.  
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3. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
said first array of stiffening elements includes a first array of embossment elements; and  
said second array of stiffening elements includes a second array of embossment elements.
- 30 4. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said deformation-control member is configured to provide at least a portion of an absorbent body.
5. An article as recited in claim 4, wherein said deformation-control member is configured to provide at least a shaping layer portion of said absorbent body.  
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6. An article as recited in claim 4, wherein  
said article further includes a baffle and a liquid permeable cover; and  
said absorbent body is sandwiched between said baffle and cover.

5        7. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said medial section of said deformation-  
control member has a medial section width of at least a minimum of about 2 mm and not  
more than about 45 mm.

8. An article as recited in claim 7, wherein said medial section of said deformation-  
10 control member has a medial section length of at least a minimum of about 50 mm and not  
more than about 300 mm.

9. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
said stiffening elements have a width dimension and a relatively longer length dimension;  
15        and  
a majority of the stiffening elements are substantially continuous along their length.

10. An article as recited in claim 9, wherein at least some of the stiffening elements are  
discontinuous.

20        11. An article as recited in claim 10, wherein the discontinuous stiffening elements are  
located in an intermediate section of the article.

12. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
25 the stiffened region provides a first fishbone array of embossment elements, and at least a  
second fishbone array of embossment elements; and  
the second array of embossment elements are arranged in a longitudinally opposed,  
oppositely facing, counter-position relative to the first array of embossment  
elements.

30        13. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
the first array of stiffening elements have a first alignment angle which is at least a  
minimum of about 15 degrees and not more than a maximum of about 75 degrees  
and  
35 the second array of stiffening elements have a second alignment angle which is at least a  
minimum of about 15 degrees and not more than a maximum of about 75 degrees.

14. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
the first array of stiffening elements has a first base-side section and a first  
complementary-side section

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15. An article as recited in claim 14, wherein said base-side section and said  
complementary-side section are substantially mirror images of each other.

16. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein the stiffening elements include  
10 embossment elements having a depth which provides a caliper percentage of at least a  
minimum of about 25 % and not more than a maximum of about 95 %.

17. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein the stiffening elements have a length which  
is at least a minimum of about 10 mm and up to a maximum of about 70 mm.

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18. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein the stiffening elements have a separation  
distance between immediately adjacent stiffening elements, and such separation distance  
is at least a minimum of about 0.5 mm and not more than a maximum of about 40 mm.

19. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the stiffening elements  
are substantially linear.

20. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the stiffening elements  
are substantially curvilinear.

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21. An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said deformation-control member includes  
an absorbent body; said absorbent body has a relatively larger shaping layer and a  
relatively smaller supplemental layer; and said stiffening elements include embossment  
elements located in the shaping layer.

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22. An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said supplemental layer is located  
adjacent a bodyside of the shaping layer.

23. An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said supplemental layer is located  
35 adjacent a garment-facing side of the shaping layer.

24. An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said absorbent body further includes a perimeter embossment located proximally adjacent at least a portion of a terminal, perimeter edge of the absorbent body.

5        25. An article as recited in claim 24, wherein said embossment elements substantially avoid intersecting the perimeter embossment.

26. An article as recited in claim 25, wherein said embossment elements include relatively outboard end sections which are curved to substantially avoid intersecting the  
10        perimeter embossment.

27. An absorbent article as recited in claim 1, wherein  
said deformation-control member includes an absorbent body;  
said first array of stiffening elements includes a first array of embossment elements; and  
15        said second array of stiffening elements includes a second array of embossment elements;  
said first array of embossment elements are located a first portion of said absorbent body;  
said second array of embossment elements are located on a second portion of said  
absorbent body which is longitudinally opposed to said first portion of the  
absorbent body,  
20        the first array of embossment elements have a first embossment alignment angle which is  
at least about 15 degrees and is not more than about 75 degrees.  
the second array of embossment elements have a second embossment alignment angle  
which is at least about 15 degrees and is not more than about 75 degrees.  
the first array of embossment elements have a first base-side section and a first  
25        complementary-side section, said first complementary-side section being  
substantially a mirror image of said first base-side section;  
the second array of embossment elements have a second base-side section and a second  
complementary-side section, said second complementary-side section being  
substantially a mirror image of said second base-side section;  
30        said first array of embossment elements thereby having a first fishbone configuration, and  
said second array of embossment elements thereby having a second fishbone  
configuration which is counter-positioned relative to the first array of embossment  
elements;  
said first complementary-side section is laterally spaced-away from said first base-side  
35        section;

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said second complementary-side section is laterally spaced-away from said second base-side section;

said first array of embossment elements avoid entering into the medial section of the absorbent body; and

- 5 said second array of embossment elements avoid entering into the medial section of the absorbent body.